

Quite unlike the pleasures of the renaissance gentleman in that many of the latter's pleasures were to be useful as exercises for war, the pleasures of the eighteenth century were more confined to social activities. Chesterfield summarized the true pleasures of a gentleman to be "those of the table, but within the bound of moderation, good company, that is to say, people of merit; moderate play, which amuses, without any interested views; and sprightly gallant conversations with women of fashion and sense.

These are the real pleasures of a gentleman; which occasion neither sickness, shame, nor repentance. Whatever exceeds them becomes low vice, brutal passion, debauchery, and insanity of mind; all of which far from giving satisfaction, bring on dishonour and disgrace."¹ "Your evenings, I therefore allot for company, assemblies, balls, and such sort of amusements; as I look upon those to be the best schools for the manners of a gentleman; which nothing can give but use, observation, and experience."² He considered dancing an excellent exercise for teaching grace in movement, carriage, presence, and so because Stanhope so greatly needed grace, the best dancing masters were secured and Stanhope diligently was taught the art. The following extracts are strikingly similar to the ideas advanced by Lord Herbert quoted above, "Dancing teaches you to present yourself, to sit, stand, and walk, genteelly; all of which are of real importance to a man of fashion,"³ and "I desire you will particularly attend to the graceful motion

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 116, Letter CXVII.

2. op. cit., p 226, Letter CLXXXII.

3. op. cit., p 191, Letter CLXIV.